

Weekly Free Press.

BURLINGTON, FRIDAY, FEB. 3, 1854.

County Convention.

There will be a Convention of the true friends of Temperance, or "Maine Law," at Charlotte, on Thursday the 16th of February 1854, for the purpose of nominating a County Commissioner, and the transaction of such other business as will properly come before the Convention. I. W. BARNUM, d.w.d. Cor. Secretary.

Missouri Compromise.

The Nebraska Bill of Mr. Douglas, with its proviso to break down the Missouri Compromise, so called, appeared in the political horizon as suddenly as the small cloud before the eyes of the prophet's servant. Like that it belated a storm. The matter of the Temperance is already heard on every side. Whether like that it will bring relief to a country burdened with a sore evil may be doubted. The fear is that it will only excite it and make its influences more disastrous.

Most of those who took the deepest interest in the contention which produced the admission of Missouri into the Union, have left the busy scene of life, and a new generation has come forward. The discussions which are to come inevitably on the Nebraska bill will be, we think, better understood by many of our readers, if some of the remarkable points of those which filled the public eye for two years or more before the Missouri question was disposed of, shall be brought before them. Some facts can be applied more truly now perhaps than they could then, and the people of these days may thus see more easily where their danger lies.

By Treaty with France, April 1803, in consideration of paying to that Power 600,000 francs and agreeing to pay to American citizens their claims against France to the amount of 20,000,000 francs more, the United States acquired a complete and unencumbered possession of all what was then called Louisiana. It took in all the country between the Mississippi River and the Mexican Province on the west. In transferring her sovereignty over the few thousands of inhabitants, mostly Spanish and French, then in the territory, France made this provision in the Treaty.

ART. 3. The inhabitants of the ceded Territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the Federal Constitution to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States, and in the meantime they shall be protected in the free enjoyment of their property, liberty, and the religion which they profess.

Probably that clause did not cost the Commissioners who formed the Treaty an hour's time; but it has been made a cause of debate without end in Congress and throughout the country.

The Southern part of the country so acquired, was soon made the Territory of Orleans, and in 1811 became the State of Louisiana. The portion north of that was called the Territory of Louisiana till 1812. It was then called Missouri Territory. In December 1818, Congress was memorialized for leave to form a constitution for a part of it, to be admitted into the Union as the State of Missouri. The rest was to remain a Territory of the same name. In February 1819, having had inserted in it after much earnest debate, clauses prohibiting any further introduction of slavery and involuntary servitude except for crimes, and providing that all children born in the State after its admission, should be free at 25 years of age. These prohibitory clauses were voted for by members from the free States with few exceptions. Those from the Slave holding States voted against them.

On the 11th of February the bill went to the Senate. The Senate struck out those prohibitory clauses, and sent the bill back to the House. The House refused to concur. Both Senate and House adhered to their respective positions, and the bill was lost.

To understand the grounds on which the parties stood, it is necessary to go back a few years. Part of the country ceded by France, had been admitted as a State in 1812, viz: the State of Louisiana. From lands once within the chartered limits of Georgia, Mississippi had come into the Union in 1817. (Before the Missouri question was finally settled, Alabama from the same land came in also.) On the south side of the Ohio River, Kentucky, from lands once belonging to Virginia, came into the Union in 1792; and Tennessee, from lands once belonging to North Carolina, came in in 1796—all without any restriction on the subject of slavery; and all became slave holding States. Why then was Missouri to be restrained from becoming so? To explain this we must go to the Ordinance of 1787, enacted by the Congress of the old Confederation for the government of what was called the North-western Territory, being the country lying North of Ohio, and East of the Mississippi, and including also the peninsula of Michigan. The sixth article is as follows:

ART. VI. There shall be neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude in said Territory, otherwise than in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, provided always that any person who may be guilty of piracy, or of any crime against the laws of the United States, shall be liable to be seized, and conveyed to the person claiming his right, or his labor or service as a slave.

Three States had been formed out of that Territory, Ohio in 1802, Indiana 1816, Illinois in 1818—all before the case of Missouri arose. (Michigan did not become a State till 1836.) In all these Slavery was forbidden. A glance at the map shows that the southern boundary of the State of Missouri, if there, there were any reasons why the extension of Slavery should be checked at all—reasons of either National or State policy, or reasons founded on the natural rights of man, and the duties of men to each other, and if Congress had any constitutional power to do so, where could a place be found in a territory which they had acquired from a Foreign Government, and at a line which separating eastward separated the Slave States from the Free—so separated them too, according to an Ordinance to which all the States had given their assent, when their power over

the region from which several of the States above named were made, was unaffected by the limitations of the Federal Constitution?

That Congress had the power to make the proposed restrictions, and that it was the proper time to exercise it, was not doubted by many of the ablest and best statesmen of the country. We shall continue this subject hereafter.

The Great Western Railroad.

The above road, lately opened for travel, although not an American work, is justly regarded as of great importance in American eyes. Aside from its influence on the portion of Canada which it traverses, to which it has given new life and where it has advanced the price of real estate from 75 to 200 per cent, the commercial advantages it offers as a link in the great chain of American rail ways which connect the East and West, cannot be overlooked. We take the following facts concerning it from recent articles in the N. Y. Courier and Albany Journal.

The Great Western Railway is two hundred and twenty miles in length. It commences in the West at Detroit, at the head of Lake Erie, where the Michigan roads and daily steamers connect it with all the shores of the great upper lakes and the exhaustless lands of the north-western States—and terminates in the East at Niagara, where two Railroads, the Erie Canal and the St. Lawrence connect it with the Seaboard.

The road was projected eight years ago. Its cost has been about eight millions of dollars, about one million of which was subscribed in Canada, about one million in the United States, and nearly a million by the British Government; the remainder has been raised by the sale of stock and bonds in Great Britain. Its line of location is in some respects remarkably favorable. Ninety-five per cent of its whole distance is perfectly straight, and the curves on the remaining distance are mostly very slight. There is one straight line of 55 miles. The gauge is five and a half feet. The work upon it is of the most substantial character, the engineer and most of the contractors being Americans. All the cross wagon roads run either under or over the railway. When finished and stocked it will have cost about \$44,000 per mile. The fare on the route is three cents a mile, which is one cent more than on most Northern roads in our country. It is expected that the entire two hundred and twenty-eight miles from Niagara to Detroit will be run in eight hours, and the entire distance between Chicago and Albany, 837 miles by nearly a straight line, in twenty nine hours. A suspension bridge connecting the line with the Rochester and Niagara Road is in process of construction, of which the Courier's correspondent says:

"It will have but two cables, one on each side, each of the strongest twisted wire and nine inches in diameter. The bridge will be well made, I doubt not, but whether it will be well travelled is another question. Money will suffice for the former, but something more is requisite for the latter, and something which hardly how the company will supply. I mean *placé* for the passengers; the however pleasant 'riding on a rail' may be on *terra firma*, this fitting on a stick, whether a brown stick or an iron stick, two hundred feet over an abyss blacker and fiercer than Acheron, for a good long farthing or two is a different matter."

The Treaty with Mexico.

Our readers are aware that Gen. Gadsden, our Minister to Mexico, has lately returned bringing with him a treaty which he had negotiated with Santa Anna. Though not officially promulgated, the main points of it have been published, and are as follows.

The new boundary line laid down by it runs from El Paso, which is about at the intersection of the 104th degree of longitude, and the 32d degree of latitude, in a straight line little south of West, to the intersection of the 111th degree of longitude and the 31st degree of latitude, thence North-west to a point two leagues above the mouth of the Colorado, at the head of the Gulf of California. The tract ceded contains thirty-nine millions of acres, and the price to be paid for it is twenty millions of dollars.

The advantages to be gained by this treaty are that it contains a well defined boundary line. The land ceded, embraces the disputed territory of the Mesilla valley, and thus settles that question. It also contains what is claimed to be a feasible route for the Pacific Railroad. The treaty releases the United States from a clause in a former treaty, by which our Government was in some sort bound to defend the Mexican frontier from Indian depredations, and it provides for the indemnification out of the \$20,000,000, of American citizens who hold claims against the Mexican Government, the most prominent of whom are the American assignees of the rights of Garay.

Some of the disadvantages are as follows: The tract granted is according to the best accounts, for the most part a barren and desolate waste, rained over by profligate tribes of Indians, who for years have kept up a devastating warfare on the Mexicans, and of whom Mexico is heartily glad to be rid. It contains no port on the Gulf of California. An enormous price must be paid for it out of the National treasury—from the funds which belong to all the States and in the disposition of which all have an equal interest. The territory is intended in time to form a new Slave State, the governorship of which the *Charleston Courier* already bespeaks for a South Carolinian.

Another most objectionable feature, and which, though as yet little dwelt on, must we think awaken serious opposition to the confirmation of this treaty, is the Pacific Railroad scheme which appears to be connected with it. Gadsden, who negotiated this treaty, appeared at the Memphis Pacific Railroad convention as the advocate of the very route which he has now secured the right to in this new territory. It is known as the Gila route, and the contemplated termini of the road to be built over it are at Charleston on the Atlantic coast and San Diego on the Pacific. And to the construction of a road through this ceded territory the United States, it is stated on high authority, is bound by the terms of this treaty. A clause to that effect was contained

in the original draft of the treaty, and in what the N. Y. Courier claims to be a full and accurate abstract of the treaty furnished from Washington, the high probability that such a stipulation is still attached to it is stated.

That such a treaty as this will be ratified, is more than we are, at present, ready to believe.

Congress.

On some accounts it is matter of rejoicing that Congress has the long session before them, instead of the short one. Some of the nefarious schemes which are gradually peeping into the light might be fairly hatched and started out into full and vigorous life before the country could be awakened to their true nature, if the session were to close by 4th of March. But as there are a great many speeches to be made between this and next August by those who wish to have the credit of acting for or against measures which are closely connected with the continuance of power, or the change of its possession, we feel pretty sure that the hatching process will be of one time. We shall have a chance to see what the birds are intended to be. In some cases, from the ill-omened look of the creatures as far as now seen, it is to be hoped they may be yet settled in the shell.

Mr. Douglas' bill for the Nebraska Territory, or, as he now proposes, for two, the Nebraska and Kansas territories, to contain a practical repeal of the Missouri Compromise clause, will not go through Congress in a hurry. There are intimations that the Administration are to go for it strong, but they cannot go with a rush. If some of the company expect to gain by such a movement, others have got to look out that they do not lose. So they will not be quite ready off hand. They have not yet got the President's Message fully read.

Though we shall hear a good deal about "delicate subjects," and the impropriety of "agitating settled questions," a sort of talk which has always appeared to us ridiculous for Statesmen to use about subjects on which men have sincere convictions, it is quite manifest that the political relations of Slavery have got to come under a fresh and long discussion. The debate on the Missouri question has got to be gone over again.

The South Docks.

Reliable and respectable presses throughout the North concur, so far as we notice, with great unanimity, in the free expression of the opinion that our Country is disgraced by the conduct of its Representative at Madrid. There are a few, however, and of the number we are surprised to see the N. Y. Times, who defend the course of the fiery and fussy Frenchman. That is to say, they defend deliberate attempts at murder, for what else is duelling? It is of no use to dwell on the provocations—which in this case, for that matter, apparently were slight.—They alter the case in no respect. A man of true dignity will not be a duelist, in this age, under any circumstances whatever. Fancy Mr. Everett fighting a duel! No. The *London Chronicle* is right. It says:

"We may well blush to witness the Ministers of France, England and America engaged in a desperate and bloody brawl, little more reputable, either as regards its own movement or its prosecution, than a row and tumble in Tennessee, or a row in a Parisian 'guinguette,' or in a London casino."

The Sonora Filibusters.

The last arrival from California brought some additional news from the renowned President Walker of Lower California. At the last reliable accounts, up to Dec. 19th, he still survived with his hand, they having fortified themselves at Ensenada in a one-story house with thick walls. According to one account they had lost eight or ten of their number. According to another their entire loss was one man wounded. There was a rumor, which lacked confirmation, that the *Anta* with its reinforcement of 250 men had joined Walker. Reliable information from the seat of war and of the new Government of Lower California seems to be scarce. The authenticated achievements of the New President sum up as follows.—He fought a battle and seized two California governors, who escaped and took with them his fleet—the *Caroline*. He established the new Republic of Lower California. He stole twenty horses, which were retaken by the Mexicans. He maintained a siege in a small one story house.

The World is waiting impatiently for the rest of his history.

Bennington Battle Monument.

A meeting of the Corporators named in the act incorporating the Bennington Battle Monument Association was held at Rutland on the 18th instant, as we learn by a slip from the *Herald* office.

It will be recollected that the Legislature, at its last session, in the act incorporating this Battle Monument Association, authorized the State Treasurer to pay the Association the sum of three thousand dollars, on condition that the Association raise at least seven thousand more, and that the corner stone of the monument be laid on or before the 15th day of August, 1854.

The meeting at Rutland elected a board of officers, and appointed assistant Treasurers in each Probate District in the State, who are empowered to appoint some suitable person or persons in each of said towns to collect contributions for the erection of the Bennington Battle Monument. H. B. Stacy, Esq., of Burlington, is the assistant Treasurer for Chittenden County. The following are the officers of the Association:

PRESIDENT.

Hon. Samuel P. Strong, Hon. Timothy Follett, Hon. E. N. Briggs, Hon. J. S. Pettibone.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Treasurer.—Samuel H. Brown. Corresponding Sec'y.—Alfred Robinson. Recording Sec'y.—George W. Strong. Auditor.—C. M. Robinson.

Executive Committee.—Wm. Bigelow, Luman Norton, A. B. Gardner, Benjamin Sears, Perry Harwood, Jr., Daniel Roberts, George W. Strong, Timothy Follett, and Augustus Fairbanks.

This district will, we trust, contribute promptly its full share towards the necessary funds.

[FOR THE FREE PRESS.]

Mr. Eron.—Not the least interest and profit among the Conventions lately held in this part of the State, was the "Allanston Convention" at Essex last week. In this day of Lectures, we all think it worth while to take considerable pains to hear a single good Lecture, upon almost any subject connected with India or Syria; but here we heard four or five on these countries;—from men who were no snuffers in the art, but who were able and faithful, who had been eye-witnesses of what they described, and had perfect understanding of what they related.

Besides, the subject of these lectures were the most interesting and instructive that could be culled from these countries. They were not the Philosophy, Science, Literature and Art of these respective countries, although those subjects were embraced, and often alluded to, but the Religion and life of the people. Upon these subjects, the Rev. Lecturers gave us not theories and speculations, but something to theorize and speculate about,—doctrines and histories, customs and facts. They told us, of those who knew what the *Hindoo* and *Mohomedan* themselves think of their systems of religion,—how they worship, and what influence their worship has upon the heart and life. They told us before us too, of what we could see with our own eyes, the obstacles that the gospel had to overcome in order to reach these people, and told us the progress that it had already made in enlightening their darkness, overcoming their prejudices, and subduing the pride of their hearts. For two days, with constantly increasing numbers and interest, we were permitted to listen to these always interesting, and at times deeply thrilling descriptions, statements and narratives.

The interests of these lectures upon India and Syria, were relieved by scarcely less exciting and interesting narratives of what God had wrought and is still working in China, Africa, Malagasy, Greenland, Sandwich Islands, Micronesia, and other islands of the great Island World. Verily it was good to be there, and we wished that all the friends of man, and of missions in the region, could have shared in these profitable exercises. Should such another opportunity occur, it is hoped that more will avail themselves of it, both as a means of greatly profiting themselves, and encouraging missionary labors and efforts. A. D. B. Williston, Jan. 25, 1854.

ITEMS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Hon. J. C. PARK'S LECTURE.—The subject of the Lyceum lecture Monday evening was "The Dignity of Labor." The lecturer stated that the World's Industrial Exhibition marked the Epoch of a proper appreciation of labor. He considered all kinds of manly labor alike honorable. It is not the class of labor but inferiority in his class which makes the man contemptible. Hence every one should aim to be first in his class. In order to this intellect must guide labor. Labor rises in dignity as it is connected with mind. In these days the daughters of mechanics are as well educated as any others. Their superior facilities however give them no right to look down on the honest and manly labor of their fathers and brothers, or to despise the attentions of their brother's companions. He dwelt on the necessity of thorough female education in all classes, both because the mechanics' wife may one day be the President's lady, and because on the mothers of the land depends the character of the rising generation. The chief recommendation of labor is that it makes man devout. The lecturer spoke of the degradation of slave labor, and closed with the declaration that on it's laborers depends the progress of our country, and that never will it cease to respect labor till the laborer ceases to respect himself. Mr. Park is a fluent speaker and his lecture, though containing nothing very new, was interesting, wholesome, well delivered and well received.

The lesson taught in it was a good one; but not, we trust, especially needed in this or any other part of Vermont. We believe that Vermonters need not to be told of the dignity of labor. There is no class of fillers in our State, and individual specimens of the sort are rare. The sons of its Green-hills are a race of hard and sturdy workers and they respect themselves and their vocations. Its daughters too, we trust and believe, are above the petty thought that honest labor whether of the head or hand, is degrading. Those of them who think themselves the best can follow back the ancestral pedigree but a single generation before they run against the jack-paw or the plow. They know too that with the ready hand, hard and brown though it be, goes the true and generous heart.

Its intelligent and enterprising farmers and mechanics, our State delights to honor. It places them in posts of honor and trust. They mingle in and go to make up its best society, and long may it continue so to be.

—SCIENCE IN LITVORE, VT.—We chronicled a day or two since the burning of Mr. Stinson's house in Ludlow on Sunday night last. On Tuesday the 24th says the *Battleboro Statesman*, Joshua Kelly, a weak minded young man, 24 years, old brought a t up by Mr. Stinson, and whose clothes, with a little money and notes against Mr. Stinson to the amount of \$250, were burnt with the house, hung himself in a barn on Mr. Stinson's farm. Although Mr. Stinson had agreed to give him new notes next day and a contribution was to be taken up to make up his loss in clothes, he was very low spirited after the fire, and in Sunday afternoon after doing his chores hung himself by an ox chain over a beam so low that his knees were on the floor. He was found dead.

—SUICIDE IN PLYMOUTH, VT.—The *Statesman* also mentions the suicide of O. K. Farwell a young man who shot himself in a part of Plymouth, called Frog city, on Sunday the 13th inst. He married, last Fall, a girl of 17, whom he met at the Woodstock Fair, a few weeks previous. His wife refused to live with him, and went home to her parents. Farwell called to see her, and as she rejected his request to live with him, he concluded that life without his wife was not worth having, and stepped immediately out of the house into the yard, and in the sight of his wife, and others, put a pistol under his chin, and blew his brains out, falling dead.

—VERMONTERS IN CALIFORNIA.—The firm of Hallack, Pease, Billings & Park of San Francisco, have lately completed a building in that city which the *San Francisco Herald* speaks of as so great an ornament to the city that it attracts universal admiration. It occupies one side of an entire block, with a front of 400 feet. It is of Italian architecture, and is one which in extent, permanency of construction, and architectural beauty,

would claim more than ordinary attention in any part of the world. Two of its enterprising owners are well-known sons of Vermont, FREDERICK BILLINGS, Esq., of Woodstock, and T. W. PARK, of Bennington.

—FIRE IN SHELDON.—The St. Albans Tribune states that on Tuesday evening last, the dwelling house of Deacon Sheldon, of Sheldon, was burned to ashes. Loss not known. The wind turned the fire from the barns and outbuildings and they were all saved.

—A NEW VARIETY OF PEAR.—The Windsor County Agricultural Society have awarded a premium to Mr. Luther Briggs for a new variety of pear.

Mr. Briggs has given it the name of Vermont Sweet, and the Committee consider it a first rate pear, equal to the (Briggs St. Michael), of Woodstock. It is a new variety, named after him, and is a fruit of medium size, yellowish with a red cheek on those most exposed to the sun. Mr. Briggs says the tree is hardy and he thinks a good bearer; rather a slow grower in the nursery, making firm and well matured wood.

—There are but three States which have no debt, viz: Vermont, Delaware, and Florida. Pennsylvania has the largest debt, \$41,524 87.

—THE SEASON.—In Montreal the thermometer has been as low as 25 degrees below zero. At St. Louis on the 17th inst., the Mississippi was frozen so that persons could cross for the first time in eight years. In England the season has been one of unexampled severity. The *London Times* publishes a table of the temperature of the coldest days of England since 1810. It appears that January 3, of the present year, the weather was 7 1/2 degrees colder than at any time during that period, the thermometer having fallen to four degrees below zero, which, for England, is something very extraordinary. Two of the London police were found frozen to death on the night of the 3d inst.

—THE PATRIOTISM.—In this selfish age we cannot sufficiently admire the patriotism of those who, although posterity does little or nothing for them, still disinterestedly care for posterity.

The Central Agricultural Association of Georgia offer a silver pitcher, value \$50, for the finest baby two years old; a silver pitcher, value \$25, for the finest one year old babe, and a silver goblet for the handsomest babe of six months. The children are to be clothed in domestic fabrics and the premiums to be awarded at the next fair in August. More generous still is the offer of a gentleman in the town of March, Canada who has offered a prize of \$180, for the three handsomest babies of two years old or under in that town. It seems that at a late census the takers returned no children under four years for the township of March, for the simple reason that they could not find any, the babies all being so snugly taken their mothers hid them when the census takers came around. The patriotic gentleman who makes this offer is determined to produce a better state of things.

—TAKING UPON SYDNEY.—Mitchell, the Irish patriot, lately escaped from Van Diemen's land and now residing "The Citizen" in New York, comes out that fated for slavery, and wishes he had a plantation well stocked with healthy negroes in Alabama. He also goes in for Filibuster rig, and was generally on all occasions; and would revive the barbarous modes of warfare in the dark ages, the throwing of scalding oil, red hot sand, and sulphuric acid on the foe. He is expected to advocate scalping and cannibalism in due time.

—BARROOM MORALITY.—A correspondent of the *Franklin County Herald* stopping at a public house in one of the most populous towns in Vermont, in the valley of the Mississippi, took pains to count the oaths which were profanely spoken, on Saturday, two hundred and five; Sunday, three hundred and thirty-one; Monday, one hundred and thirty-six; Tuesday, two hundred and ninety-seven; Wednesday, one hundred and forty-eight; Thursday, three hundred and sixty-nine; and on Friday, one hundred and ninety-nine times, and this he says is far short of the whole, as he was absent a portion of each day. This is a new branch of statistics not included in the Census returns. The prevalence of the unmanly vice of swearing is a disgraceful feature of the age.

—DEATH OF A PATRIARCH.—Col. Alpha Warner, late of Hardwick, Vt., died in Chittenden, Ohio, on the 6th inst., aged 84 years. He removed from Hardwick, Mass., to Hardwick, Vt., in 1795, and opened a public house, there being but three families in the village. It was a noted house in its day. He was the father of thirteen children, six of whom survive him.

—VERMONT.—There is but one city in the State, and not a *solid* soldier. We have no police, and not a word has been committed in the State within the last two years. We have no monuments, nor crystal palaces, but we are honest, genuine homes that are the center of the world to its inmates for which the father works, votes and tel s where the mother cooks, educates, labors and loves—where she rears men, scholars and patriots.—*Herald*.

—BETTER THAN BANK STOCK.—Good husbandly insures better dividends than any of the Bank stocks of Vermont. We had a case in point near by to sustain this assertion. Joseph F. Fairbanks, Esq. of this village, wintered 41 sheep last winter. The wool he took from them was sold for \$70, and the lambs (47 in number) for \$117—total, \$187, realizing 4 1/2 and a fraction over from each of his 41 ewes. His sheep are a common course washed breed. The wool it was noticed, was not more valuable than that raised from some other breed of sheep, but the lambs were larger, and the number greater. A man is usually raised from the same number in point near by to sustain this assertion. Joseph F. Fairbanks, Esq. of this village, wintered 41 sheep last winter. The wool he took from them was sold for \$70, and the lambs (47 in number) for \$117—total, \$187, realizing 4 1/2 and a fraction over from each of his 41 ewes. His sheep are a common course washed breed. 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